

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, said method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement, wherein the hold announcement is selected from a list, and the list is sorted based on frequency of use;

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call-back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call based on the particular caller identification, wherein the particular caller sent to the voice mail system without alerting the user is provided with a specific voice mail announcement pre-selected for the particular caller; and

based on the particular caller identification being on a particular date and at a particular time, making the determination that the automatic answering mode applies to the particular caller.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement further includes placing the wireless telephone in mute mode until the user has taken the incoming telephone call.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising notifying said user of said incoming telephone call.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said notifying includes one or more of an audible noise, a vibration, and a light.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reminding said user that said caller is on hold in response to said providing the caller with the hold announcement.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said reminding said user that said caller is on hold includes ~~one or more of an audible noise, a vibration, and a light.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call, input to said determination being made by an automatic answering unit that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes a Caller ID associated with said caller.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes a time of day associated with said telephone call.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes an instruction from said user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that a manual mode applies to the incoming call includes one or more of a Caller ID associated with said caller, a time of day associated with said telephone call and an instruction from said user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a call-back announcement.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said performing said pre-selected announcement action includes providing said caller with a recorded announcement and directing said call to said voice mail system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action is created by said user.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hold announcement includes an indication that said user will take said call momentarily.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hold announcement is pre-selected from a plurality of said hold announcements.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said call-back announcement is selected from a plurality of said call-back announcements.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing said user-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then directing said call to said voice mail system including specifying said voice mail announcement.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing said user-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then providing said caller with a recorded announcement and directing said call to said voice mail system.

21. (Currently Amended) A wireless telephone for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the system comprising:

a receiver which receives an incoming telephone call; and

an automatic answering unit in communication with said receiver and including instructions to implement a method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement, wherein the hold announcement is selected from a list, and the list is sorted based on frequency of use;

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call based on the particular caller identification, wherein the particular caller sent to the voice mail system without alerting the user is provided with a specific voice mail announcement pre-selected for the particular caller;

wherein the automatic answering unit is operative to make the determination that the automatic answering mode applies to the particular caller based on the particular caller identification being on a particular date and at a particular time.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the system comprising:

a network;

a wireless telephone in communication with said network; and

a host system in communication with said a network in communication with a wireless telephone, wherein said host system includes instructions to implement a method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller to the wireless telephone;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement, wherein the hold announcement is selected from a list, and the list is sorted based on frequency of use;

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action from said wireless telephone via said network, said user-selected announcement action selected by

said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement;

if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement then directing said call to a voicemail system; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call based on the particular caller identification, wherein the particular caller sent to the voice mail system without alerting the user is provided with a specific voice mail announcement pre-selected for the particular caller; and

based on receiving a setting for the particular caller identification being on a particular date and at a particular time, applying the automatic answering mode to the particular caller.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein said performing said pre-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then directing said call to said voice mail system.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said network is a public switched telephone network.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said network is an internet protocol network.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer apparatus for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the computer comprising:

a storage medium, readable by a processing circuit in the computer apparatus, storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit, causing the computer apparatus to perform a method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a particular caller of a plurality of callers; and

~~responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call based on the particular caller identification, wherein the particular caller sent to the voice mail system without alerting the user is provided with a specific voice mail announcement pre-selected for the particular caller~~

based on a particular caller identification being on a set date and at a set time, making a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the particular caller having the particular caller identification.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

28. (Previously Presented) The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer apparatus of claim 26, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.